Clean copy of new claims

21. A method of monitoring item movement in a post-scan area of a self-service checkout terminal, comprising the steps of:

detecting and recording a weight decrease resulting from removal of one or more items from the post-scan area of the self-service checkout terminal;

detecting a weight increase resulting from placement of one or more items in the post-scan area of the self-service checkout terminal; and

generating a match signal if the weight increase matches the weight decrease.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:

generating an improper-use signal if the weight increase exceeds the weight decrease.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

updating an electronic log if the improper-use signal is generated; and

generating an intervention signal if the updated log satisfies a threshold condition.

24. The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

detecting a further weight increase resulting from placement of one or more additional items in the post-scan area; and

generating a match signal if the total of weight increases matches the weight decrease.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising the steps of:

generating an improper-use signal if the total of weight increases does not match the weight decrease.

26. The method of claim 25, comprising the further steps of:

updating an electronic log if the improper-use control signal is generated; and

generating an intervention signal if the updated log satisfies a threshold condition.

27. The method of claim 24, comprising the further step of:

generating an improper-use signal if a subsequent item is entered into the terminal before the weight of all removed items is restored to the post-scan area.

28. The method of claim 27, comprising the further steps of:

updating an electronic log in response to generation of the improper-use signal; and

generating an intervention signal if the updated log satisfies a threshold condition.

29. The method of claim 21, comprising the further steps of:

detecting and recording a further weight decrease resulting from removal of one or more additional items from the post-scan area; and

generating a match signal if the total weight increases match the total weight decreases.

30. The method of claim 21, wherein:

the post-scan area includes a bagwell having a grocery container positioned therein,

a weight scale is positioned so as to detect weight of items in the grocery container,

removal of items from the post-scan area is detected with the weight scale, and

placement of items into the post-scan area is detected with the weight scale.

31. The method of claim 21, in which:

the manner in which a user handles items during operation of the self-service checkout terminal is monitored with a video camera.

32. The method of claim 21, in which:

an instructional message is communicated via a display monitor if the detected weight increase does not match the recorded weight decrease.

33. The method of claim 21, in which:

an instructional message is communicated via a voice generating device if the detected weight increase does not match the recorded weight decrease.

34. The method of claim 1, in which:

an instructional message is communicated via an audible tone generating device if the detected weight increase does not match the recorded weight decrease.

35. A method of monitoring item movement in a post-scan area of a self-service checkout terminal, comprising the steps of:

detecting and recording any weight decrease resulting from removal of one or more items from the post-scan area of the self-service checkout terminal;

detecting any weight increase resulting from placement of one or more items in the post-scan area of the self-service checkout terminal; and

generating a match signal if a weight increase matches a weight decrease.

36. The method of claim 35, in which:

a processor concludes that a user has permanently removed a removed item from the post-scan area if another item is entered before the match signal is generated.

37. The method of claim 35, including the further step of:

maintaining and updating a scale history table to track the usage of a weight scale in the post-scan area for detecting the weight decreases and increases.

38. The method of claim 37, in which:

a processor concludes that no unaccounted for item or items have been placed in the post-scan area based on the content of the scale history table.

39. A method of monitoring item movement in a post-scan area of a self-service checkout terminal, comprising the steps of:

detecting a weight increase resulting from placement of one or more unentered items in the post-scan area of the self-service checkout terminal; and

communicating an instructional message instructing a user to remove the detected item or items from the post-scan area and to enter the item or items for purchase.

40. The method of claim 39, in which:

the message is communicated via a display monitor and a voice generating device.

41. The method of claim 39, including the further step of:

communicating initialization instructions to a user via a display monitor.

42. The method of claim 41, in which:

the initialization instructions instruct the user to touch a particular area of the display monitor in order to select a desired method of payment for entered items.

43. The method of claim 41, in which:

the initialization instructions instruct the user to push a particular button on a data input device in order to select a desired method of payment for entered items.

44. The method of claim 41, in which:

the initialization instructions instruct the user to identify himself or herself by inserting a card into a card reader.

45. A method of monitoring item movement in a post-scan area of a self-service checkout terminal, comprising the steps of:

detecting and recording any decreased weight resulting from removal of one or more items from the post-scan area of the self-service checkout terminal;

detecting any increased weight resulting from placement of one or more items in the post-scan area of the self-service checkout terminal; and

generating a match signal if a weight increase matches a weight decrease.

46.   A method of monitoring item movement in a post-scan area of a self-service checkout terminal, comprising the steps of:

detecting removal of a first item from the post-scan area of the self-service checkout terminal;

detecting placement of a second item in the post-scan area of the self-service checkout terminal; and

generating a match signal if the second item is the first item.